



NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-259221-OLS-25

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$150,000

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho will expand services by digitizing and preserving community oral histories, historical photographs, and tribal news publications. Project funds will support the procurement of audio/visual recording equipment and supplies related to digitizing community oral histories, conducting research, and archiving historical materials and publications. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Library will also obtain new digital and print subscriptions and software, and hire personnel to assist with scanning, digitization, and categorization. The library will establish a digital database for storing historical materials, tribal research, and publications. This will enable tribal member students to research relevant topics.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Tribal Profile
- Narrative
- Schedule of completion

When preparing an application for the next deadline, be sure to follow the instructions in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program to which you are applying.

Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant

NAG-Enhancement-FY-25

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

March 2025

Tribal Profile

The Fort Hall Indian Reservation is located in Southeastern Idaho and consists of 521,253 acres, of which 315,000 are agricultural lands. The Reservation encompasses 814 square miles of high desert mountainous terrain. Nearly three-quarters of the Reservation roads are backcountry or dirt roads; cell phone communication and internet service is “spotty”. The Reservation encompasses land within four counties, five school districts, and multiple school sites. According to the Tribes’ Enrollment Department, as of December 2024 there were 6,184 enrolled members of the Tribes. The Reservation population is underserved and isolated; there are only seven people per square mile.

On April 30, 1936, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes adopted the Indian Reorganization Act and created their tribal constitution and by-laws. Today, the Tribes are governed by the Fort Hall Business Council, which consists of seven members elected to staggered two-year terms. The Tribal government’s administrative functions operate in accordance with established policies; an Executive Director is in charge of day-to-day operations. The Tribes operate more than ninety departments and programs that provide a variety of services, including public safety; health care and social services; education, transportation, natural resource management; culture, and recreation. Program directors are responsible for grant management and contract compliance. The Tribes have an extensive background in federal grant and financial resource management. The Finance and Contracts Departments have successfully administered financial awards since the early 1970s.

However, the following statistics document that the Reservation is a distressed community and will continue to need Federal government support. The 2019-2023 American Community Survey shows only 86.5% of the Fort Hall Reservation population twenty-five years old and older has a high school diploma or higher; only 15.0% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. In comparison, 91.7% of the Idaho population has a high school diploma or higher, and 31.2% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Nearly 9.6% of the labor force is unemployed as compared to 3.7% percent of the State population.

Many Reservation residents have low paying, seasonal, temporary employment with no benefits. The largest employers are the Tribal government and Federal government with people working in business and office occupations. Many residents work for Tribal Enterprises in the casino, hotel, or food service. There are very few job possibilities other than the governmental entities within the community. The Reservation median household income is \$47,165 as compared to the State of Idaho with \$74,636. Nearly 20.4 percent of all people on the Reservation have income below the poverty level, as compared to Idaho at 10.1%.

The 477 Human Services Education Program will directly involved in carrying out the library work.

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Narrative

Abstract

Project funds designated for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Library are facilitating the expansion of services through the digitization and preservation of community oral histories, historical photographs, and tribal news publications. Currently, the tribal library lacks a digital database for storing historical materials, tribal research, and publications.

Our overarching aim is to establish a digital database accessible to tribal member students for researching various topics relevant to our tribes. The timeframe for completing the digitization of resources is ongoing and may extend beyond the duration of this specific grant. Nevertheless, we intend to maximize the time and resources available to the personnel hired for this task. Our goal is to accomplish as much work as possible before the conclusion of the two-year grant project.

The allocated funds will be utilized to procure new digital and print subscriptions, software, audio/visual recording equipment, and supplies crucial for digitizing community oral histories, conducting research, and archiving historical materials and publications. Additionally, funding will support the existing library technicians and facilitate the hiring of new part-time student interns to aid in scanning, digitization, and categorization tasks.

Community needs assessments highlight a demand for the storage and protection of tribal research data. The project funds will directly benefit Shoshone-Bannock tribal members, the broader community, students, and tribal governance. Our evaluation strategy involves tracking the usage of our digital database by students and community members accessing photos, articles, and tribal research materials.

Narrative

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes is applying for enhanced grant funding from IMLS to address the library service needs in our tribal community by expanding our current space and offer more digital library research services for our students and community members. Currently, our tribal library does not have a digital archive for students and community to view and access. Most of the photos are kept under lock and key with our Records Department and access is granted with permission from the Fort Hall Business Council. A digital tribal archive would safely keep the Tribes' photos, articles, stories, video, cultural collections and allow students to research information. We would like to purchase digital software for archiving mixed media print, audio and video to put online for students and the community to research and access.

High level activities in the project would entail collecting, scanning and cataloging the items into a user-friendly database that can be accessed on multiple tiers depending on the sensitivity of the

collections. The Shoshone-Bannock tribal members would benefit greatly from this resources as well as other researchers. Our intended results are to have a database that stores all our stories, media, and content pertaining to the tribes. We will measure our results by the items we are able to input into the database and the numbers of researchers placing an inquiry to access the database for research.

Project Justification

What current need, challenge, or opportunity will your project address and how was it identified? Describe how you have used reliable resources to define the need, challenge, or opportunity and develop the scope for the project? We are applying under goal one of champion lifelong learning and our objective is to advance shared knowledge and learning opportunities for all by establishing an online archival database for our tribal community to use and access. The problem is that we do not have any archival database for students and community to access in our tribal community. Data assessments in our community showed there is a need for better research materials that are accessible to the community.

Who is the primary audience for your project and how have they been involved in the planning? The ultimate beneficiaries for this project are the tribal community members of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, as well as other academic researchers. The target group for our project are tribal students, both high school and college level. They have been involved in the planning process by taking community surveys.

Project Work Plan

What specific activities will you carry out and in what sequence?

The proposed project will implement the following series of initiatives aimed at achieving the stated goals and objectives.

Collections Preservation and Access: We will invest in the preservation of our library collections, implementing best practices in collections care and management to ensure their long-term viability. Additionally, we will expand access to our collections through digitization efforts, making cultural resources more readily available to our community members, both onsite and online. The activities include partnering with Sho-Ban News, the Language and Culture Department, and Records Department as well as other tribal departments to obtain archive material as well as purchasing the database/software/licensing and getting trained on how to use the database/software. Then activities will include scanning the articles, taking photos of items, categorizing items and uploading content within the database. We hope to capture at least 10,000 items into the database by the end of the two-year grant timeframe.

Lifelong Learning Programs: We will implement a diverse range of educational programs, including literacy workshops, cultural heritage seminars, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities. These programs will cater to individuals of all

ages and backgrounds, promoting a love for learning and fostering intellectual growth within the community.

Community Engagement Events: We will organize community engagement events, such as cultural festivals, film screenings, and dialogue sessions, to promote inclusivity and celebrate the rich diversity of our community. These events will provide opportunities for individuals to come together, share their experiences, and build meaningful connections with one another.

Professional Development for Library Staff: We recognize the critical role of our library staff in delivering high-quality services to our community. With this in mind, we will provide opportunities for ongoing training and professional development, including attendance at conferences, workshops, and certification programs. By investing in our staff, we ensure that they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively serve our patrons. Our staff will be training on how to digitalize and archive mixed media materials and input them into the archival.

Partnerships and Collaborations: We will forge partnerships with local organizations, schools, and government agencies to enhance our community engagement efforts. Through collaborative projects and initiatives, we will address pressing issues facing our community and foster a culture of civic discourse and mutual support.

Other library services will include checking out books to patrons, offering printing services for students and community and access to electronic media. Community members can also utilize our computer lab to research, apply for jobs, and access online career resources. The tribal library will offer space for community events to take place throughout the year.

Who will execute each activity? Jessica James, the Tribal Education Manager, will implement and manage the project. Her resume is included in the attachments. Other resources are the 477 Department that can be used to help carry out the activities after the grant project has been completed. They will be keeping one of the library tech positions under the 477 budget while another library tech is hired under this enhancement grant.

How have you involved stakeholders in the planning and development of the project and how will you incorporate their input throughout the project? They have been involved in the planning process by taking community surveys. Various discussions have been held with partners mentioned above.

What existing resources within the org, assets within the library or community, and/or potential partners will be utilized during this project to aid in its success? Existing resources within the organization are the 477 Department of Human Resources at the tribes. The department oversees all Education, Employment and Training (EET) of our tribal community members. Library Services are under the Education Department and therefore it is a perfect fit for serving all our community members.

How and with whom will you share your work's general findings lessons learned? We will share our work's general findings and lessons learned with other tribal libraries within our state and in the Northwest region. We also collaborate with our state and community libraries when it comes to resource sharing and partnering.

Project Results

What are your project's intended results and how will they address the need, problem, or challenge you have identified? Intended results are to establish an archival database for our tribal community member students and members to learn more about our Shoshone-Bannock tribal people. This will address the need because currently there is no archival database established and there is limited information about our tribal people.

Anticipated outcomes are:

- Increased participation in lifelong learning programs, leading to improved literacy rates and enhanced educational outcomes within the community.
- Enhanced skills and knowledge among library staff, resulting in improved service delivery and patron satisfaction.
- Greater community cohesion and inclusivity, as evidenced by increased attendance at community engagement events and strengthened relationships between diverse groups.
- Preservation of cultural heritage through collections stewardship efforts, ensuring that future generations have access to our rich cultural legacy.
- Improved access to library collections, particularly for underserved populations, through digitization and outreach efforts.

How do you define success for this project, and how will it be evaluated? The digital archive will be the outcome of our project. Knowledge will grow about the Shoshone-Bannock tribal people and our own community member students can learn more about who they are as tribal peoples, especially if they do not live in the tribal community.

How will you disseminate the results (deliverables, lessons learned, etc.) of the project to the primary audience?

Results will be delivered through the workshops, on the library Facebook or website page, the annual report to tribal members, and periodic reports to the Tribal Council.

How will you sustain the benefit(s) of your project beyond the conclusion of the period of performance? We fully intend to demonstrate the benefits of a tribal archive to our tribal government council, who is over all budgets of the tribes. They will continue funding the tribal library and services operating costs as the Fort Hall Business Council sets them as a priority.

Narrative Conclusion: The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Library is committed to empowering our community through lifelong learning, engagement, and access to cultural resources through the creation of an digital archival database. With the support of this grant, we will be able to expand our programs and services, reach more community members, and fulfill our mission of serving as a hub of knowledge, culture, and connection for generations to come. We thank you for considering our proposal and look forward to the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve.

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Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

March 2025

Schedule of Completion

Year 1

Activity	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12
Collections Preservation and Access												
Partner with other Departments and organizations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purchase software		X	X	X								
Digitize items					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lifelong Learning												
Workshops			X			X			X			
Staff professional development												
Attendance at conferences						X						X
Partnerships and Collaboration												
Local schools, organizations					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Library Services												
Checking out material, printing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant

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Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

March 2025

Schedule of Completion

Year 2

Activity	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12
Collections Preservation and Access												
Partner with other Departments and organizations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purchase software												
Digitize items	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lifelong Learning												
Workshops			X			X			X			
Staff professional development												
Attendance at conferences						X						X
Partnerships and Collaboration												
Local schools, organizations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Library Services												
Checking out material, printing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X